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PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED JUNE 7TH, 1870.]

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SESSION 1869-70.

*Fourth Meeting, 10th January, 1870.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in  
the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*J. V. Shaw, Esq. ; J. K. Laughton, Esq. ; James  
Reiss, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*William Bragge, Esq., C.E. ; Joseph Benjamin, Esq. ;  
Andrew H. Black, Esq. ; William H. Benyon, Esq. ; Rev. David Charles,  
M.A. ; Bernard Cracroft, Esq. ; John Corrie, Esq. ; Robert Clark, Esq. ;  
Captain John C. Hoseason, R.N. ; Charles W. C. Hutton, Esq. ; William  
Vaughan Murray, Esq., M.R.I., &c. ; William Nicholas, Esq. ; Robert  
Oldham, Esq. ; Henry Oldham, Esq., M.D. ; Robert Shaw, Esq. ; James  
Wiseman, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY FROM DECEMBER 13TH, 1869, TO  
JANUARY 10TH, 1870.—A Collection of Tracts on Emigration.  
By various authors. Donor, J. Bate, Esq. ‘State Emigration.’ By  
E. Jenkins. Donor, the author. ‘Transplantation, the True  
System of Emigration.’ By F. Young. ‘The Great West.’ By  
E. H. Hall. Donor, the author. ‘Passeggiate nelle Canavese.’  
By A. Bertolotti. Donor, the author. ‘Handbook of Physical  
Geography.’ By Keith Johnston. Donors, the Publishers. ‘Coni-  
feræ.’ By R. Brown. Donor, the author. ‘The Climate and  
Resources of Madeira.’ By J. Grabham. Donor, the author. ‘Neue  
Beiträge über Brasilien und la Plata.’ By J. J. Sturz. Donor, the  
author. ‘Die Deutsche Auswanderung.’ By J. J. Sturz. Donor,  
the author. ‘The Rob Roy on the Jordan.’ By J. Macgregor.  
Donor, the author.

ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF DECEMBER 13TH, 1869.—A Map of the North-West part of North America ceded to the United States by Russia, and now called Alaska. Presented by A. Petermann. A Map of Western Australia, showing the discoveries of J. Forrest. Presented by A. Petermann. Isthmus of Suez—on two sheets. Presented by J. Wyld, F.R.G.S. Several copies for distribution. Map of the Railways around London. By M. Vigers. Presented by the author.

The business of the evening was the reception of the Report of the Society's envoy, Lord Houghton, concerning his visit to the opening of the Suez Canal. In introducing his Lordship, the President thus addressed the Meeting:—

“GENTLEMEN,—When preparations were being made to inaugurate the opening of the Suez Canal, the enlightened Ruler of Egypt, who is one of our Honorary Members, did me the honour of inviting me through his Minister, Nubar Pasha, to attend that grand and most important international ceremony.

“Feeling unable, from the uncertain state of my health, to avail myself of this great privilege, I deemed it to be incumbent on me to have the Royal Geographical Society well represented. For, independently of congratulations on the accomplishment of so vast an undertaking, I felt most anxious to testify to the Khedive the deep sense of my associates and myself of the great services he was about to render to geographical science by the confidence His Highness reposed in our friend Sir Samuel Baker, and the liberality and generosity with which he had enabled that successful traveller to endeavour to open out and make known to us the true physical geography of large portions of Inner Africa, which, notwithstanding the efforts of Livingstone, Burton, Speke, Grant, Baker, and others, still remained undefined.

“I therefore induced my friend Lord Houghton, who, as one of the Trustees, is a permanent Member of the Council, to undertake this duty and act as the representative of our body, which he did with cordiality; and I doubt not, that with his well-known eloquence, his Lordship has conveyed to the Ruler of Egypt a full recognition of our obligations to His Highness, accompanied with our hearty wish for the success of his great international enterprise. I now call on Lord Houghton to address the Meeting.”

Lord HOUGHTON spoke as follows:—“When the proposal was made to me that, as Trustee of the Royal Geographical Society, it would be convenient and appropriate that I should go to this great festivity to represent that distinguished Corporation, I, being no wise unwilling, and not prevented by any accidental circumstance, thought it my duty to do so. I proceeded, as no doubt many other persons did, under the good organisation of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and I am bound to say that everything which that important Company did, both for the comfort of the passengers to Egypt and for the establishment of their own character in Egypt, was all that could be desired by this Society and by this country. When I was asked to give you an account of my visit, I felt that it was a very different question. If I had arrived in England immediately after the opening of the Suez Canal I have no doubt—I say it without diffidence—that,